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GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1969

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health H.C.T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector Thomas W. Gibson, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks: Mrs. D. Kershaw

Miss E. Jastrzab

Lansdowne Terrace East,
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Northumberland.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Gosforth Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to present the annual report for 1969.

The vital statistics and figures relating to infectious diseases and tuberculosis are set out. Some specific outbreaks of infectious diseases are referred to. The numbers immunised are also set out and some commentary made on the figures.

Matters relating to environmental health are set out in Mr. Stenger's section of the report. A great deal of important monitoring work has to be carried out and at the same time an almost bewildering variety of other matters, many of them urgent have to be dealt with. Members of the public are constantly telephoning or calling at the office many of them, rightly or wrongly, feeling very aggrieved. All of them have been tactfully dealt with.

Once again I would like to thank the members of the Council for the support given to the work of the department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H.C.T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	1,739
Registrar General's estimated population	27,390
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at 1st April, 1969.	9,400
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£ 4,368
Rateable value at 1st April, 1969.	£ 1,084,935

Population trends -

1951	24,500
1956	24,810
1961	26,600
1962	26,780
1963	26,800
1964	27,410
1965	27,400
1966	27,510
1967	27,540
1968	27,520
1969	27,390

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Numbers</u>			<u>Rates</u>
	M	F	Total	
LIVE BIRTHS	185	175	360	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				13.1
Comparability factor			0.97	
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				12.7
Ratio of locally adjusted birth rate to national rate				0.78
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	11	10	21	
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births				5.8
STILLBIRTHS	4	1	5	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				13.7
INFANT DEATHS (Death in the first year)	3	1	4	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				11.1
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 live legitimate births				8.8
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 live illegitimate births ...				47.6
NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first 4 weeks)	3	-	3	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				8.3
Early neonatal deaths (Deaths in the first week)	1	-	1	
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .				2.8
PERINATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first week and stillbirths)	5	1	6	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				16.4
There have been no MATERNAL DEATHS since 1960.				
DEATHS	193	210	403	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population				14.7
Comparability factor			0.77	
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				11.3
Ratio of locally adjusted death rate to national rate				0.95

Comparison with previous years

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- timate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956-60	16.3	2.7	22.2	14.3	11.6	33.0	11.6
1961-65	15.8	4.3	20.4	18.6	13.3	31.8	11.7
1966	14.4	3.9	7.3	12.3	9.8	17.0	11.7
1967	13.6	4.9	10.3	15.6	15.6	25.7	10.1
1968	12.8	4.9	10.9	8.3	5.5	13.6	11.5
1969	12.7	5.8	13.7	11.1	8.3	16.4	11.3

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Principal Causes of Death

	Home		St.Nicholas Hospital		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cancer	77	25.3	4	4.1	81	20.1
Cerebro vascular disease	54	12.7	10	10.2	64	15.9
Ischaemic heart disease	77	25.3	20	20.4	97	24.0
All other heart and circulatory disease	29	9.5	9	9.2	38	9.4
Respiratory disease	31	10.0	39	39.7	70	17.4
All other disease	28	9.2	11	11.2	39	9.7
Accidents and suicides	9	3.0	5	5.1	14	3.5
	<u>305</u>		<u>98</u>		<u>403</u>	

Place of Death

	Home	St.Nicholas Hospital	Other Hospitals	Total
A. Deaths in district	157	169	1	327
* B. Outward transfers	10	73	1	84
C. Remaining in district (A-B)	147	96	-	243
* D. Inward transfers	158	2	-	160
E. Total deaths assigned to district (C+D)	305	98	-	403

* B. Persons with less than 6 months residence in the district.

* D. Mostly persons belonging to Gosforth who died in hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne.

AGE IN YEARS

			Total all ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. - 1	AGE IN YEARS								75 & over
CAUSE OF DEATH		Sex				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
B18	Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	M F	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B19 (1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -
B19 (2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -
B19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M F	4 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 -	1 -	- -
I19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M F	8 5	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	5 2	2 2
B19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M F	16 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 2	9 1	3 -	2 1
B19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M F	- 7	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	- 4
B19 (8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	- F	4 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	1 -
B19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M -	5 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	2 -	1 -
B19 (10)	Leukaemia	M F	3 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	M F	11 10	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	2 2	5 2	3 4
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B46 (1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M F	1 1	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
327	Anaemias	M F	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B46 (3)	Mental Disorders	M F	5 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	2 -	1 -	1 -
B46 (4)	Other diseases of Nervous System etc.	M F	2 4	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 2	- -
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M F	- 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 3
B27	Hypertensive Disease	M F	3 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	1 1

B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	20	11
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	F	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	15	28
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3
B46 (5)	Other diseases of the Circulatory System	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10
B31	Influenza	M	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	5	15
B32	Pneumonia	F	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	28
E33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
B46 (6)	Other diseases of Respiratory System	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
P34	Peptic Ulcer	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	6	9
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	M	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	22
B46 (7)	Other diseases of Digestive System	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4
P39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
B46 (8)	Other diseases, Genito-Urinary System	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B42	Congenital anomalies	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B44	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
RF4.7	Motor vehicle accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE4.8	All other accidents	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LE4.9	Suicide and self-inflicted Injuries	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
	Total all causes	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
		M	193	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	43	63	65
		F	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	25	46	125

Causes of Stillbirths

1. Anencephaly
2. Placental insufficiency
3. Cause unknown
4. Cause unknown - Multiple pregnancy (triplets)
5. Cause unknown - Multiple pregnancy (triplets)

Causes of Infant Deaths

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Prematurity | Death in hospital at 1 day |
| 2. Congenital heart disease | " " " at 14 days |
| 3. <u>1</u> Hepatitis. <u>11</u> Hydrocephalus. Meningomyelocoele repaired. | " " " at 18 days |
| 4. Acute otitis media | " at home at 4 months |

Deaths from Cancer

Site of disease

Age at Death

		25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	Total
Oesophagus	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Stomach	M	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pancreas	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Bile Duct	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colon	M	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
	F	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Rectum	M	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	2	4 (1)
	F	-	-	-	-	(1)	2	2 (1)
Lung	M	-	-	2	9	3 (1)	1	15 (1)
	F	-	-	2	1	-	1	4
Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	1	1	1	-	4	7
Uterus	F	-	-	1	1	1	1	4
Vagina	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ovary	F	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Prostate	M	-	-	-	2	2	1	5
Kidney	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bladder	M	-	-	-	-	1	1 (1)	2 (1)
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Melanoma of skin	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral tumours	M	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	F	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sarcomas	M	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Leukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary site unknown	M	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
	F	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
TOTAL	M	1	-	2	17	19 (2)	7 (1)	46 (3)
	F	-	2	5	6	5 (1)	13	31 (1)

The figures in brackets refer to hospital deaths within the district.

Accidental Deaths

Age

	15+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	Total
<u>Motor vehicle accidents</u>								
Lorry overturned on driver	M -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Passenger in car/Car	F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>All other accidents</u>								
Fractured femur	M -	-	-	-	-	-	1 {1}	1 {1}
	F -	-	-	-	-	- (1)	1 {2}	1 {3}
Other fractures	M -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F -	-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	- (1)
Overdose of barbiturate	M -	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F -	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Overdose of barbiturate and alcohol	M -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Private aircraft accident	F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	M 1	-	2	-	-	-	1 {1}	4 {1}
	F 1	1	-	1	-	- (2)	1 {2}	4 {4}

The figures in brackets refer to hospital deaths within the district.

These figures prepared from local records do not correspond exactly with the figures produced by the Registrar General on pages 8 and 9.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infective Hepatitis.

There was a small outbreak of this disease in the Coxlodge area during the summer. Case to case spread took place particularly among school children and at one time seven children in the one class at Coxlodge Primary School were affected. Later in the year there were a few sporadic cases in other parts of the district.

Salmonella Infections.

One family became infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium* whilst on holiday in another part of Northumberland. The immediate source of infection was a child staying with the family. The family were kept under surveillance and after about six weeks all members had stopped excreting the organism.

One person, mentioned below, was found to be excreting *Salmonella enteritidis*.

Action was taken with a few people who had possibly been in contact with cases of typhoid whilst on holiday abroad.

Specific E. Coli Infections.

This organism is associated with outbreaks of Infantile gastro-enteritis. Contacts of two outbreaks were followed up.

Epidemic Vomiting.

A sharp outbreak of Gastro-enteritis involving 110 students and staff occurred at a College of Education and seemed to spread from a students' hall of residence in this district. The illness was always mild and most persons involved were recovering within 24 hours. No single item of food was eaten by all involved and none of the organisms responsible for food poisoning were isolated from specimens taken. (One girl was found to be harbouring a *Salmonella* organism but this was thought to be an incidental finding). One or two cases of Gastro-enteritis occurred before the main outbreak and, subsequently, there were a few secondary cases.

It is hoped to publish an article about this outbreak. It bears a resemblance to outbreaks of 'winter vomiting disease' the cause of which is unknown but is most likely due to a virus.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of cases notified in the Urban District during 1969, set out in age groups.

DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-64	65 and over
Measles	9	3	4	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	1	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	28	-	1	19	8	-

MONTH OF NOTIFICATION

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	9
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	6	5	1	5	2	4	4	28

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of New Cases

AGE	New Cases				Inward Transfers			
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15 - 24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	4	-	2	-	2	-	1	-
	6				3			
	9							

Comparison with previous years

<u>Year</u>	<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Inward Transfers</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Average 1946-50	26	5	14
" 1951-55	32	11	6
" 1956-60	23	11	2
" 1960-65	13	8	1
1966	12	7	2
1967	9	4	-
1968	8	2	1
1969	6	3	-

Tuberculosis Register 1969

	No. of cases on register at commencement of year		No. of cases added to register		No. of cases removed from register		No. of cases remaining	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Males	54	3	6	3	9	2	51	4
Females	36	7	-	-	4	2	32	5

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Commencing 1968 the following schedule for immunisation and vaccination has been used.

VISITS	at <u>AGE</u>	<u>VACCINE</u>
1	4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
2	6 months	do
3	12 months	do
4	2nd year	Measles
5	2nd year	Smallpox
6	4 - 5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis
7	10 -12 years	B.C.G. (if necessary after skin test).
8	On leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis

During 1969 the numbers of children receiving primary inoculation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, and the numbers receiving primary Poliomyelitis vaccination, would seem to have diminished to about 70% of those eligible. In previous years the corresponding figure was in the order of 90%. Some 60% of children received primary Smallpox vaccination.

Measles vaccination was introduced in 1968 when over 400 children were vaccinated. However, in the early part of 1969 the principal manufacturer of the vaccine had to withdraw supplies when doubts about safety arose, subsequently very few children were vaccinated.

Numbers immunised during 1969

Type of Antigen	Year of Birth						
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	1953-61	Totals
Triple Primary	50	201	6	-	2	-	259
Diphtheria/Tetanus Primary	-	-	-	-	7	17	24
Diphtheria Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus Primary	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Triple Reinforcing	-	22	134	31	83	8	278
Diphtheria/Tetanus Reinforcing	-	11	14	16	305	28	374
Diphtheria Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Tetanus Reinforcing	-	-	-	2	4	14	20
Poliomyelitis Primary	31	204	6	-	6	2	249
Poliomyelitis Reinforcing	-	33	150	51	404	175	813
Smallpox Primary Vaccination	10	105	59	18	17	1	210
Smallpox Re-vaccination	-	-	-	2	8	8	18
Measles Vaccination	-	24	44	43	65	4	180

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take great pleasure in preparing and submitting for your consideration my report on the work of the Health Department in the field of environmental hygiene.

During the year the scheme concerning the compulsory improvement of dwelling houses in the South Gosforth area was brought to a successful conclusion.

The latter part of the year witnessed the coming into force of the Housing Act 1969 which introduced higher standard grants. Certain compulsory powers contained in the 1964 Act have been repealed and by way of replacement the new Act introduced the new concept of the "general improvement area".

Some progress was made in the field of atmospheric pollution when the Council resolved in principle that the Fawdon Red House Farm Estate be selected as a suitable area for the introduction of a smokeless zone.

Food premises, mobile shops, stalls, etc., were again subject to strict supervision in an endeavour to achieve and maintain the highest standards of hygiene.

Inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were continued at a level consistent with previous years. Particular attention again being paid to securing for office and shop workers better lighting conditions so as to conform with new requirements recommended by the Ministry.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district has a piped water supply, provided by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. Once again I am greatly indebted to Dr. A.T. Palin, Chief Chemist to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, for supplying the following information.

Bacteriological Examination.

1028 works control samples from Whittle Dene and Throckley were examined in the Company's Laboratory; all were "excellent" save one, which was "satisfactory". 232 samples of water from the Coquet Water Board's Warkworth Filter plant were taken at the Longbenton Governor House. Two were "unsatisfactory" (but check samples were found to be "excellent"), the rest "excellent".

449 samples from special sampling points in Newcastle upon Tyne were "excellent" and one was "satisfactory". 119 samples of water from the principal plants were taken at random and all were "excellent" apart from one which was "unsatisfactory" and two which were "satisfactory". In all cases check samples proved to be "excellent".

Chemical Examination.

There was no significant change in the average chemical composition of the water supplied for domestic consumption.

Fluoridation was practised at the Whittle Dene and Henderson (Throckley) Works. The concentration of fluoride ion in the supplies from these works was maintained at 1.0 milligramme per litre.

Typical Results of Chemical Analyses of Filtered Waters

	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Mean</u>
pH Value	7.7	7.0	7.2
Free CO ₂	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	160	60	90
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)			
Total	200	100	150
Carbonate	160	60	90
Non-Carbonate	80	30	60
Calcium	190	70	120
Magnesium	60	20	30
Chlorides (as Cl)	17	9	12
Sulphates (as SO ₄)	70	20	50
Silica (as SiO ₂)	4.2	0.8	2.4
Fluorides (as F)	1.1	0.9	1.0
Iron (as Fe)	0.25	0.01	0.07
Manganese (as Mn)	0.05	0.01	0.01
Free & Saline Ammonia (as N)	0.23	0.04	0.12
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N)	0.20	0.01	0.09
Nitrates (as N)	2.0	0.1	0.8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	3.4	1.0	2.0
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre

NOTES:

1. Over much of the distribution system the water is a blend of the products of the principal treatment plants.
2. These plants in turn receive water in variable proportions from the several sources utilized by the Company.
3. It is, therefore, difficult to predict the composition of the supply to any particular point and the maxima and minima quoted are not to be regarded as absolute values but rather as limits not likely to be exceeded in normal circumstances.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection.

It was possible, as in previous years, to maintain the normal weekly collection of refuse from all premises.

There was a slight but noticeable increase in the quantity of refuse dealt with during the year. The increase was particularly noticeable in the quantities removed from shop premises. Demands made upon the Department for special collections of bulky articles, i.e. unwanted furniture, garden refuse, etc., continued unabated. It is, therefore, pleasing to record that the Council resolved to purchase a 40/50 cubic yards capacity refuse collecting vehicle and that consideration was also to be given to the purchase of a further vehicle of similar capacity in the early part of 1970. The advantages to be gained in the acquisition of larger capacity vehicles should at least be two-fold, i.e. to deal more adequately with the removal of increased volumes of refuse and a possible saving in man-power or, alternatively, offset the need for engaging additional staff to deal with the increase in the number of premises which has taken place throughout the district. To a lesser degree there should also be a saving in disposal costs.

Refuse Disposal.

Tipping operations continued to be carried out at a site on the old Coast Road situated in the Urban District of Longbenton. The average distance from Gosforth to the disposal point is approximately 4 miles. The number of loads deposited in the tip from Gosforth alone was 5076, representing an estimated 10152 tons. Expenditure incurred in the disposal of refuse is equally borne by the Longbenton and Gosforth Councils.

Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to voice on your behalf our sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of Longbenton Council for continuing to provide this Council with facilities for the disposal of refuse. In this particular regard I would also like to mention Mr. Thirkell, Chief Public Health Inspector to the Longbenton Council.

Salvage Disposal.

The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1970, was identical to that forwarded during the previous financial year, i.e. 321 tons. This figure represents 0.98 tons per month per 1,000 of population. Although the quantities coincided, the sale of waste paper during the year under review realised an income of £3209., an increase of £400. upon the previous year. This was due to an increase in the price received per ton of paper.

The tonnage of paper, together with the respective grades forwarded to the Board Mills, and the income received from the sale thereof, is shown as follows :-

<u>Grade</u>	T.	C.	Q.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	236.	17.	0.	2258.	17.	3.
Newsprint	<u>84.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>950.</u>	<u>12.</u>	<u>0.</u>
	<u>320.</u>	<u>19.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>£3209.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>3.</u>

Staff.

The sickness rate among the manual staff again showed a sharp increase. The amount involved being £970., representing 2635 man-hours, as against £730., representing 2085 man-hours for the previous year.

As on previous occasions it affords me very great pleasure to thank my foreman, Mr. Bishton, and the manual staff, for their efforts during the year.

HOUSING

The Housing Act 1969 received Royal assent on the 25th July and generally came into effect on the 25th August.

Part I of the Act provides for three different types of grant :-

(a) Improvement Grant of up to £1,000. (£1,200. for conversions), payable at the discretion of the Local Authority, normally for works of a high all-round level for the improvement, conversion and repair of properties with a good life ahead of them.

(b) Standard Grant of up to £200., obtainable by owners as of right, except in general improvement areas.

(c) Special Grant available at Local Authority's discretion for the installation of standard amenities in houses of multiple occupation, (rates equivalent to those provided for Standard Grants).

Improvement Grant is also available to cover repairs and replacements needed for the purpose of making fully effective other improvements carried out at the same time. The cost of these works is limited to a maximum of 50 per cent of the whole amount approved.

Section 19 of the 1964 Act, relating to dwellings outside improvement areas, has not been repealed and a tenant may still initiate action under this section. Similarly, Sections 20 and 21 remain in force and a Local Authority may still take action in respect of tenement blocks.

Part III of the 1969 Act introduces a new system governing the rents of privately rented dwellings which have been brought up to a satisfactory standard.

The chief responsibility of Local Authorities in relation to these rent provisions will be to deal with applications for certificates relating to the state of the dwelling where it is let on a controlled tenancy.

Having brought to a successful conclusion the compulsory improvement of dwelling houses in the South Gosforth area, attention should now be directed to similar types of properties situated in the Broomfield Road/Mayfield Road and Ashfield Road/Delaval Terrace areas. It is not inconceivable that the future of these properties, together with certain properties in the Coxlodge area, might well lie within the scope of the general improvement area.

It has been stressed, however, that in the operation of such a scheme persuasion and voluntary action must be the guiding principles. Whether such a scheme would be as successful as that carried out in the South Gosforth area, where a measure of compulsion was employed, is debatable.

It is surprising that tenants of properties coming within the scope of Section 19 of the 1964 Act have not availed themselves of the opportunity to initiate action under this section.

Housing Statistics.

Closing and demolition.

Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	33
--------------------------------------	----

REPAIR.

Houses made fit.

(a) By informal action	24
(b) By local authority in default of owner	1

Housing Act 1957.

Slum Clearance 1970-73.

		1970	1971	1972	1973
PART	Houses in areas to be declared	-	52	-	52
<u>111</u>	Houses to be cleared	-	52	-	52

Statistical Data.

Housing Act 1969.

Discretionary Grants.

Applications submitted to local authority Nil

Standard Grants.

	<u>During the</u> <u>year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>date</u>
1. No. of separate houses for which grants have been made	33	182
2. No. of houses so provided with -		
(a) Bath or shower	13	95
(b) Wash-hand basin	14	113
(c) Hot water supply	16	111
(d) Internal water closet	24	162
(e) Food store	15	119

AIR POLLUTION

During the year positive action was taken in connection with the promotion of our first Smoke Control Order. The Council agreed in principle that the Pawdon Red House Farm Estate be selected as an area to which the Order would apply.

It was hoped that the Order would come into force in the Autumn of 1970, but, unfortunately, owing to the lack of sufficient supplies of suitable smokeless fuels, implementation of the Order will have to be deferred until 1971. The scarcity of these fuels has been brought about by the substantial and accelerating reductions in the availability of gas coke.

Readings of air pollution, obtained through the volumetric gauge situated at the Council Depot, continued throughout the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Six noise nuisances were investigated during the year, three of which arose from industrial processes, the remainder arose from the use of pneumatic drills in road repairing operations. Subsequent to receiving advice from your Officers, remedial measures to abate the nuisances included the application of insulating materials to the machinery concerned and the fitting of noise suppressors to the drills.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING

Activity in this particular field, i.e. the supervision of the layout and testing of new drainage systems and similar duties in connection with the repair and reconstruction of existing systems, was fairly considerable.

The major part of this work was confined to the construction of new buildings, both domestic and commercial, where contractors were operating on eight different sites. Apropos existing buildings, the work was mainly concerned with the improvement of dwelling houses.

A total of 1412 yards of new drainage was tested necessitating the application of 156 water tests and 16 smoke tests.

The Engineer and Surveyor informs me that during the year his department dealt with 140 drain stoppages.

DISINFESTATION

There was a slight increase in the number of complaints received in this connection and, as in previous years, the cockroach and the wasp proved to be the most troublesome.

I am again very grateful to the Regional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for prompt attention given to requests for identification of insects and for his advice in matters of extermination. Group meetings convened by the Ministry to discuss various aspects of pest control have proved most interesting and informative.

RODENT INFESTATION

One hundred and one complaints were received during the year as against one hundred and thirty-eight the previous year. The number of premises involved was one hundred and twelve and, of these, sixty-five were found to be infested with rats and seven infested with mice. There was no evidence of rats or mice in the remaining forty houses, and there was no evidence of any major infestation.

The rodenticides used were Warfarin and Alphakil, the latter again proving very successful in connection with infestations of mice.

The majority of business premises continue to be regularly serviced by servicing agents. This is a very wise and necessary precaution, particularly in connection with food premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act, passed in 1963, makes provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises, and came into operation in 1964.

The total number of visits of all kinds made was 563, subsequent to which a total of 270 contraventions was discovered.

Lighting, which again headed the list of contraventions, was found to be well below the recommended standards laid down by the Ministry. Lack of first-aid equipment is still very much in evidence and failure to maintain premises at a reasonable temperature and failure to provide thermometers was once again apparent.

Ten accidents were reported, nine of which were concerned with retail shops. All were investigated, none of which was found to be fatal.

Registrations and General Inspections

(1) Class of Premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year.	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	14	122	112
Retail Shops	5	169	167
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	4	4
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	18	18
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS:	20	313	301

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS TO REGISTERED PREMISES - 563

Analysis by workplace of persons
employed in registered premises

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	1613
Retail shops	632
Wholesale departments, warehouses	39
Catering establishments open to the public	208
Canteens	55
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	2547
Total Males	975
Total Females	1572

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	18	13	Sitting facilities	-
5	Overcrowding	2	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
6	Temperature	28	15	Eating facilities	-
7	Ventilation	1	16	Floors, passages & stairs	12
8	Lighting	82	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	14
9	Sanitary conveniences	18	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	1
10	Washing facilities	16	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
11	Supply of drinking water	-	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
12	Clothing accommodation	-	24	First-aid	39
				Other matters	39
				TOTAL	270

Analysis of reported accidents

CAUSATION	Offices	Retail shops	Catering establishments open to public, canteens
Machinery	-	2	-
Transport	-	-	-
Falls of persons	1	3	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	3	-
Struck by falling object	-	1	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	-	-	-

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year 27 samples of water, 9 from the teaching pool and 18 from the main pool, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The result of the examination showed that the probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. in each sample, was nil.

I am indebted to the Baths Superintendent for the following additional information.

No. Samples	pH Value		Combined Residual Chlorine		Free Residual Chlorine		Total Residual Chlorine	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
15	7.6	7.8	0.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	2.5

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1.

Inspections.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	44	7	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	10	Nil	Nil
Total	83	54	7	Nil

Factories Act 1961

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil

Factories Act 1961

PART VIII

(OUTWORK)

(Sections 133 & 134)

	Section 133	Section 134			
(1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing) making apparel } etc. } cleaning } and } washing	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Samples.

During the year six samples of "Untreated" milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Five of the samples, which were all procured from the same producer, satisfied the Methylene Blue Keeping Quality Test.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 62 (Licensing of Slaughter Houses)

There are no slaughter houses in the district.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1960.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

Poultry Inspection.

There are no poultry processing premises situated in the district.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Food Premises.

There are one hundred and fifty-eight food premises in the district, details of which are described in the following table :-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
General Dealers	36	Premises with 'Off-Licence'	10
Licensed Premises	26	Fried Fish & Chips	6
Meat Purveyors	20	Cafes	6
Confectioners	19	Fishmongers & Poulterers	3
Retail Bakers	16	Bakehouses	2
Fruiterers	14		

A total of three hundred and twenty-seven visits were made to the various food premises in the district, subsequent to which it was found necessary to serve thirty-five informal notices in connection with infringements of the Regulations.

Although the number of visits made show a slight decrease upon the previous year, there was no relaxation of effort on the part of your Officers to promote and maintain the highest standards of hygiene in food premises. The standard of hygiene in food shops generally throughout the district is high. Unfortunately, there are a few food premises where constant visitation is necessary in order to stimulate sound food hygiene practice.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

The Regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1967, and revoked the provisions of the General Regulations dealing with markets, stalls, etc. Certain provisions of the General Regulations ceased to apply to food businesses to which the new Regulations apply, and to any person employed in the handling of food in the course of such a business.

A total of forty-eight inspections of mobile food traders was carried out, resulting in the service of eleven informal notices. These notices were principally concerned in bringing to the notice of food traders infringements of the Regulations relating to washing facilities, first-aid equipment and cleanliness.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 16 (Registration of food premises).

No new applications for the registration of food premises were received during the year. There was one deletion from the register.

Sixty-eight premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream, and thirty-one for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale.

The type and number of food premises registered as aforesaid is shown as follows :-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	30	Fruiterers	6
Confectioners	16	'Off-Licence'	5
Meat Purveyors	15	Bakehouses	2
Retail Bakers	8	Cafe	2
Fried Fish & Chips	6	Fishmongers	1

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 2. (General protection for purchasers of food and drugs).

Section 8. (Sale, etc., of food unfit for human consumption).

During the year sixteen complaints were received, each alleging unfitness of food sold for human consumption. Food sold in a mouldy condition occurred more frequently. In this connection there would appear to be slight regard for satisfactory stock rotation of perishable foods.

Legal proceedings were instituted in connection with two of these complaints, details of which are as follows :-

Melba Flan in a mouldy condition - Fined £20. plus £4.14.6d. costs.

Meat Pies in a mouldy condition - Fined £25. plus £8.18.6d. costs.

Unsound Food (voluntarily surrendered).

Fifty-six pounds of canned meat and one hundred and thirty-seven pounds of other canned foods were voluntarily surrendered and suitably disposed of in the incinerator situated at the Council depot.

Adulteration of Food.

I am indebted to Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Northumberland County Council, for supplying me with details of samples taken by his sampling officers in the Urban District of Gosforth during the year under review.

Mr. Arlidge informs me that one hundred and fifty-two samples were procured, of which ten samples were found not to be satisfactory.

Particulars relating to these unsatisfactory samples are as follows :-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Sliced Beef in Gravy (Canned)	<p>The contents of the cans did not conform with the impression given by the illustration on the lids, insofar as the illustration on each lid depicted <u>six slices</u> of beef, whereas the cans contained <u>chunks, pieces</u> and a <u>few slices</u> of beef (in no case was there <u>six</u> slices). It was considered that the labels were likely to mislead prospective purchasers.</p> <p>The manufacturers agreed to re-design the label.</p>
Spaghetti Bolognese Ready Meal (Dried)	<p>This product required a preparation time of 20 minutes and required the following processes - adding water, mixing, boiling, stirring, simmering, draining and rinsing. It was considered that it could not justifiably be classed as a "<u>Ready Meal</u>".</p> <p>Enquiries at the time disclosed that the matter was under discussion at a national level and that a Government Department was involved. No further action was taken pending the result of these considerations.</p> <p>The manufacturers have, however, now ceased to call the product a "Ready Meal".</p>
Pork Sausage	<p>Contained 250 p.p.m. undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative.</p> <p>The manufacturers/retailers were cautioned for this offence by the Chief Inspector.</p>

TABLE 1.

(Complaints received and dealt with)

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Accumulations	5
Dampness (dwelling house)	25
Streams	1
Defective Drains	7
Disrepair (dwelling house)	25
Extraneous matter in food	17
Foul Smells	11
Noise Nuisances	6
Vermin (Insects)	55
Vermin (Rats)	84
Vermin (Mice)	17
Atmospheric Pollution	1
Defective Dustbins	2
Pigeons	1
Miscellaneous	24
Total	<u>281</u>

TABLE 11.
(Summary of Visits)

Accumulations	3
Civic Amenities Act	5
Dwelling Houses	378
Ditches and Streams	7
Drainage Systems	255
Drain Test :-	
Smoke	16
Water	156
Factories (Mechanical)	44
(Outworkers)	9
Food Premises	327
Ice-Cream Samples	3
Infectious Disease Enquiries	58
" " Revisits	30
Improvement Grants	326
Licensed Premises	29
Milk Samples and Enquiries	7
Mineral Water Factories	1
Mobile Shops etc.	48
National Assistance Act	4
Noise Nuisances	6
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	557
Pigeons	2
Rodent Infestation:-	
Rats	768
Mice	186
Refuse Collection Supervision	408
Sanitary Accommodation on Building Sites	1
Scrap Metal Dealers Act	4
Smoke Observations	209
Smoke Control Survey	183
Verminous Premises	139
Water Samples	18
Workplaces	11
Miscellaneous	244
Total	<u><u>4442</u></u>

CONCLUSION

It always affords me the greatest of pleasure in concluding my report to express my sincere appreciation for the kind support I have received throughout the year from the Chairman of the Council and from the Chairman of the Health Committee, and from all other members of the Council.

My sincere thanks are also extended to the Clerk of the Council and to Dr. Smith for their kind support and advice. For the co-operation received from all Chief Officers in dealing with many and varied matters, I am equally grateful.

Throughout the year work in the Health Department proceeded smoothly and efficiently and, in this regard, for their loyalty and support, I am greatly indebted to Mr. Gibson, my Additional Inspector, and to the clerical staff, Mrs. Kershaw and Miss Jastrzab.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

